

HOME AND GARDEN

Paint colour seems to intensify as you spread it over an area

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There is nothing like a fresh coat of paint to spruce up the house. Before you begin, make sure the surface you're painting has been washed, scraped, sanded, filled and caulked. When painting the outside of your home, the simplest rule is to always

paint on the shaded side of the house. This is not only easier on you, but it will also keep the paint from drying too quickly which can cause it to peel and blister later. Determining the proper order in which to proceed will save you time and aggravation.

Generally, paint a house in the following order: soffits, the main body and then the trim.

For example if you are painting the west side of the house, you should first paint the soffit on that side, then the fascia. You should then proceed to the siding. Start by priming all the bare wood spots, then paint the siding, working across the house horizontally. Next

paint the window and door trim, then the doors, as well as any posts and balusters. If you intend to paint the entry steps or porch, do them last.

Choosing the colour

Before choosing a strong, bold colour for your walls, consider going one or two shades lighter.

Because walls are much larger than a paint swatch, you will find the colour selected seems to darken and intensify as you spread it over the area.

If you select a colour that's too strong, you may end up with more colour than you really wanted.

You can change the physical perspective of a room with your colour choices. If you want a long, narrow room to look wider, paint one or both of the short walls a bright or dark colour and the other walls a pale colour.

Once the interior walls and ceilings are prepped, painting the room in the proper sequence will make the job go much smoother. Start with the ceiling and then proceed with any crown or cove molding.

Next, paint the walls, then the door trim and door (if the room has one). Finish the room by completing the baseboard trim.

Rooms that face north, northeast or northwest receive little or no sunshine during the day, making them relatively dark and uninviting.

You can lend some cheer to these rooms by choosing from a palette of warm colours such as yellow, red, orange, and brown.

Likewise, you can make sunny rooms seem a little cooler with blues, greens, grays, and lavenders. But beware of those cool colours if you live in a cold climate.

Psychological research shows that people feel colder in rooms with cool colours. If you are set on using off-white, choose either a warm or a cool tint of that neutral colour.

Homer's Hindsight:

Paint materials and solvents are becoming more and more friendly toward users and good old Mother Earth, but there are still many that need to be used with extreme caution and disposed of with great care.

Instead of throwing away leftover paint, put an extra coat on a little area.

Let empty paint cans sit open until the solvent evaporates and the inside dries out.

Then, tightly cover the can and dispose according to your local disposal guidelines.

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